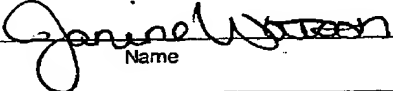


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Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Thomas R. Cech et al.

Art Unit: 1634

Filing Date: November 22, 2000

Examiner: Bradley L. Sisson, Ph.D.

Serial No: 09/721,506

Docket: 015389-002616US; 018-210c

Title: NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING HUMAN
TELOMERASE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE
AND RELATED HOMOLOGS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria VA 22313

Dear Sir,

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated January 11, 2006, for which a response is due April 11, 2006. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed.

Careful consideration has been given to the analysis made by the Examiner in the Office Action. The following amendments and remarks place the application in better condition for allowance or appeal. Applicant requests entry of this paper into the application, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116(b).